

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Charles D. Gunter on 8/25/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 23 line 3 "flocculating organic component" has been changed to – cationic polyacrylamide flocculant -; in line 5 "organic component" has been changed to – flocculant -; in line 7 after "," – wherein the addition of said basic agent increases dryness in said dewatered sludge, - has been inserted; and in line 16 "organic component" has been changed to – flocculant -.

In claim 24 line 1 "25" has been changed to – 23 -.

In claim 25 line 1 "25" has been changed to – 23 -.

In claim 26 line 3 "flocculating organic compound" has been changed to – flocculant -.

In claim 27 line 1 "28" has been changed to – 25 -.

In claim 29 line 2 "acid" has been changed to – an acid sludge -.

In claim 30 line 1 "26" has been changed to – 24 -.

Claims 34-43 have been canceled.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to /Peter A. Hruskoci/ whose telephone number is (571) 272-1160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Peter A. Hruskoci/
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Art Unit 1797

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